

UTAH SPORTS AUTHORITY
PETE SUAZO UTAH ATHLETIC COMMISSION
MINUTES
March 10, 2008
10:21 a.m. (1 hour, 19 minutes, 48 seconds)

Attending: Commissioners: Ty McCartney and Rich Montanez, Secretary: Bill Colbert and Guests: Griffen Reynaud (Throwdown), Bill Rushe (Elite Performance), Mitch Kinikini (guest), Jeremy Horn (Elite Performance), David Putvin (Fight Night, Inc/Jeremy Horn), Mike Stidham (Ultimate Combat), Mindy Martineau (Josh Burkman), Isaiah Salazar (IS Promotions and Security) and Rebecca Waldron (AG's office).

Commissioner McCartney called the meeting to order.

Commissioner McCartney made a motion to approve the minutes of November and December 2007. Motion passed unanimously.

Promoter Licenses

Application received from Isaiah Salazar, promoter of IS Promotions. Seeking approval to promote an MMA and boxing event on May 31, 2008 at the Ogden Eccles Center.

Penny Johnston, promoter, submitted an application for an MMA event in Moab on May 10, 2008. Bill still needs the financial information to complete the application.

Application received from Fight Night, Inc., David Putvin, promoter. Planning on events scheduled April 5 and May 17, 2008 at the Salt Lake Convention Center.

Application received from Josh Burkman for a promoter's license. MMA event scheduled May 3, 2008. Bill still needs the financial information to complete the application.

Griffen , promoter of Throwdown, is requesting approval of an MMA event April 18, 2008 at the McKay Event Center. He is planning on holding quarterly events.

Mike asked if background checks and fingerprints are being done on promoters and their officers. He said he, his sister and their officers have had to provide them with past applications. Rule 859-1-501 lists the requirements for promoter applications. There is a statute attached to that rule. The commission cannot locate rule or statute indicating fingerprints as necessary for promoters. Bill indicated that financial information, including tax documents, and no criminal record have been the requirements of the current commission. BCI may require fingerprints. Commissioner McCartney said civil court records should also be reviewed. Rebecca Waldron has access to district court records. Commissioner McCartney indicated these issues will need to be revisited by the commission.

Commissioner Montanez made the motion to approve IS Promotions, Fight Night, Inc. and Throwdown promoter applications pending a more thorough investigation of criminal and civil background checks. Motion passed unanimously. A follow-up commission meeting will be scheduled within 10 days.

Bill is concerned about over scheduling of events, should fees secure dates and the approval process. These issues need to be revisited by the Commission.

Public Comments

Mike requested the status of the Wendover, Nevada event. Bill has made preliminary contact with the Nevada commission and is awaiting our AG's office and legislative research to see if there is anything prohibiting the commission from sanctioning an event out of state. The Nevada commission would prefer the PSUAC sanction a Wendover event. Commissioner Montanez asked Bill to query the ABC for a history of this issue. Commissioner McCartney said that it appears probable that the PSUAC can sanction an out-of-state event by rule and statute. Another meeting will need to be set up if approval is received by the AG's office.

Promoters were asked to bring any approval requests of exceptions to the rules to the next meeting.

Request to Sanction

Event already approved for UCE has a venue change to Club Elevate Saturday, March 22, 2008.

Other listed events for UCE at Club Elevate through June 21, 2008 with some at Salt Lake Community College (contestant ages 18 to 21).

There was a discussion of the need for more inspectors due to the overlap of events.

Commissioner Montanez made a motion to approve the request to sanction events from #7 on down except for the May 3 Josh Burkman event and the May 10 Penny Johnston event pending the approval of their promoters application. Commissioner McCartney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

A discussion regarding promoters securing events, multiple events on a specific date, etc. will be discussed at a future date as need arises.

Promoter's Rule Change on the License Renewal

Bill has been working on the rule change to change the license expiration date to one year from application date. A public hearing is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on March 21, 2008. Written public

comments can be submitted up to April 14, 2008. The hearing and aforementioned dates are listed on the website. The rules committee strongly encourages a separate section for boxing, mixed martial arts and white collar so the commission can have specific requirements.

Proposed rule changes to white collar contests require participants to be 21 years of age or older to protect their amateur status, specify a definition of a training facility, competing contestants have to be the same gender and the heaviest contestant ratio not be greater than 15 percent more than their opponent.

There was a discussion on “smoker bouts” where one facility invites another facility to fight. There are winners and losers, admission is charged, contestants are rewarded possibly above nominal value and it does meet the definition of unarmed combat. The commission has to be approached for approval of this type of contest. Commissioner Montanez feels the commission needs to look into this. He would like to have some background on “smoker bouts” from other commissions.

Commissioner Montanez asked whether there were going to be any conflicts between fighters fighting from different promoters to another. Mike has had every fighter that has participating in his show sign a five year non-compete agreement. Recent UCE non-compete agreements state that fighters can fight in another promoters event but are bound to give UCE 20% of their winnings. Mike questions if the commission has the authority to enforce the fighter’s obligations to honor their contract with him. The commission is not required by statute to require BCI checks on fighters and therefore would not know of any civil wrong doing unless indicated on the fighter application. Rebecca Waldron says it is not the purpose of the commission to enforce contracts that they are not party to. She says there will be ramifications when the fighter renews his license if there are any civil actions against them. Although the commission feels this is a civil issue, Commissioner McCartney indicated the commission will get back with the promoters hopefully by the end of the week. The AG’s office will need to give their interpretation whether the commission will be involved in contract disputing.

Next meeting will be Friday, March 21, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Montanez made the motion to adjourn.